

VZCZCXRO6595
PP RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHGA RUEHGI RUEHHA RUEHJO RUEHMA RUEHMR RUEHMT
RUEHPA RUEHQU RUEHRN RUEHTRO RUEHVC
DE RUEHOT #0886/01 1821653
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 301653Z JUN 08
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8116
INFO RUCNCAN/ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 000886

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: CANADA REJECTS ZIMBABWE'S ELECTION OUTCOME, IMPOSES NEW
RESTRICTIONS

REF: OTTAWA 874

[¶1.](#) (U) Prime Minister Stephen Harper on June 27 called Zimbabwe's presidential runoff election "stolen" and expressed Canada's refusal to accept their results. (Full text of the Prime Minister's statement in para 2.) One June 29, Foreign Minister David Emerson announced further restrictions on Canada's relations with Zimbabwe, including tighter travel bans and calls for voluntary divestiture by Canadian companies operating in Zimbabwe. (Full text in para 3.)

[¶2.](#) Text of statement from the Prime Minister's Office
Quote

CANADA REJECTS ZIMBABWE'S STOLEN ELECTION

June 27, 2008
Ottawa, Ontario

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement rejecting Zimbabwe's presidential runoff election of June 27, 2008 as illegitimate:

"Zimbabwe's opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, withdrew from the presidential runoff because he considered the election environment to have been contaminated by violence and intimidation instigated by President Robert Mugabe and his government. Canada agrees fully with that assessment.

"Because no opposition candidate was fully engaged in the runoff election, Canada refuses to accept that the results are an indication of the will of the Zimbabwean people. This 'election' was stolen.

"We call on the Government of Zimbabwe and the Movement for Democratic Change to work with each other and with regional and international mediators toward a negotiated political settlement to end this crisis, which continues to damage peace, security and stability in Zimbabwe and the wider region.

"Any such settlement should respect the results of the March 29 elections. We stand with the United Nations Security Council, which declared in its Presidential Statement of June 23 that, because of the violence inflicted by the Mugabe government, the June 27 elections cannot be considered by the international community as a credible expression of democratic will.

"In light of these negative developments, Canada is scrutinizing all aspects of its relationship with the Government of Zimbabwe and will bring in further measures as the situation develops. The measures may include travel and study bans.

"We support the call for the UN Security Council to continue its discussions on Zimbabwe."

End quote

[¶3.](#) (U) Text of statement by Foreign Minister Emerson

Begin quote

June 29, 2008

CANADA IMPOSES IMMEDIATE RESTRICTIONS ON RELATIONS WITH ZIMBABWE

The Honourable David Emerson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today condemned the illegitimate and illegal actions of the government of Robert Mugabe in the conduct of Zimbabwe's June 27, 2008, election, and has rejected the results of this "election." As a result, Canada will immediately put in place measures designed to seriously restrict its relationship with the Government of Zimbabwe.

"The Government of Zimbabwe's systematic use of violence and intimidation represents a grave violation of human rights and democratic principles," said Minister Emerson. "The citizens of Zimbabwe have been denied the opportunity to shape their future through free and fair elections, and they remain in constant danger of intimidation, injury and loss of life. Canada does not consider the result of the June 27 election to be, by any reasonable standard of democracy, a credible outcome. This 'election' is illegitimate and will not be accepted by the Government of Canada."

The Government of Canada will immediately put in place a series of measures to severely restrict its relationship with the Government of Zimbabwe, and to send a message of solidarity to the people of Qof Zimbabwe, and to send a message of solidarity to the people of Zimbabwe and convey our rejection of the actions of a desperate and illegitimate regime. The following is an initial series of measures Canada is undertaking:

Q Canada will impose restrictions on travel, work and study on senior Zimbabwean government, military and police officials and their families.

OTTAWA 00000886 002 OF 002

Q Canada will summon the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Canada to convey messages to her home government.

Q Canada reconfirms its long-standing policy against exporting military goods to Zimbabwe.

Q The Government of Canada will not allow any aircraft registered in Zimbabwe to land in, or to fly over, Canada.

The Government of Canada encourages Canadian companies to voluntarily divest from Zimbabwe. Canada will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need in Zimbabwe through trusted Canadian and international partners.

"Canada is working with its partners in the G8 and elsewhere to ensure a concerted international approach to dealing with the flagrant abuse of the democratic process in Zimbabwe. The current government of Zimbabwe is illegitimate in the eyes of the international community. We call upon the United Nations Security Council and the African Union to condemn the election as illegitimate and to take further measures," added Minister Emerson.

Canada commends the work of regional election observers in Zimbabwe, and notes in particular the interim report of the Pan African Parliament Election Observation Mission, released today, which stated that the elections had been marred by high levels of intimidation, violence, displacement of people, abductions and loss of life. It concluded that the elections were not free, fair, or credible.

The Minister further stressed that the Government of Canada is fully behind the people of Zimbabwe who have shown courage and determination in these difficult times.

End quote

WILKINS